

Following the announcement today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that the U.S. economy added 290,000 jobs in April and 573,000 jobs in 2010, Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) released the following statement:

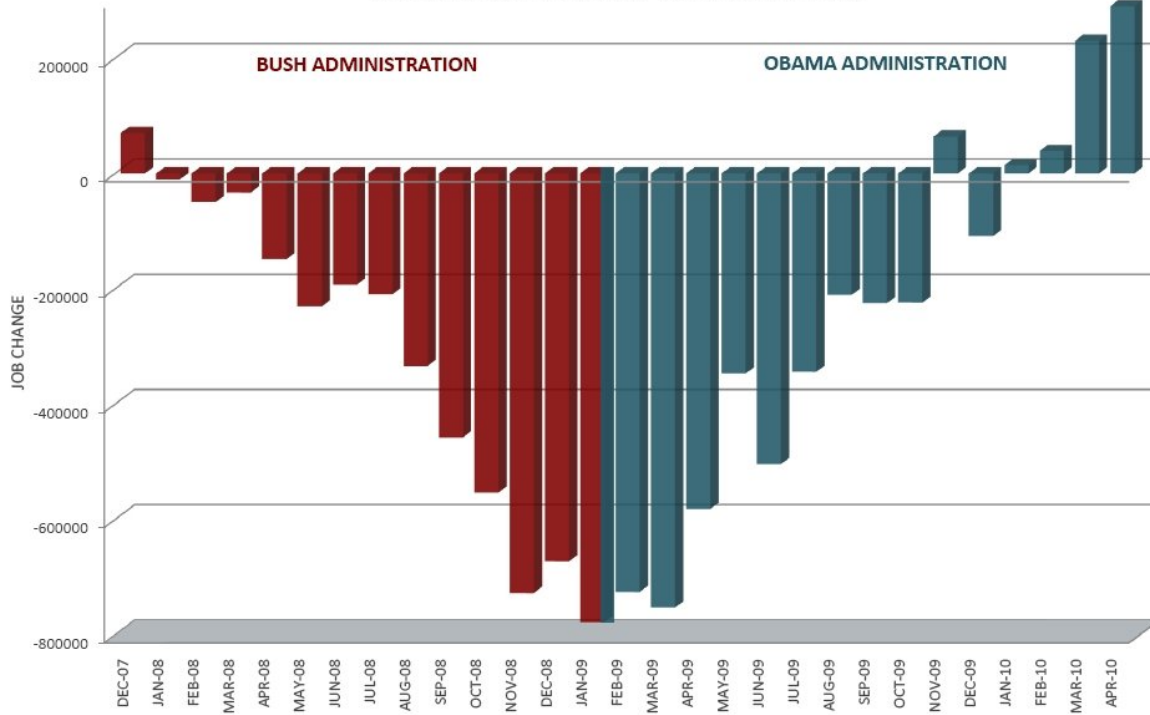
"Today we received very encouraging news about the economy. This is the largest number of new jobs in four years and the fourth consecutive month of job growth.. This is a testament to the work we have all done to put our economy on the path to recovery and put our families back to work," said Halvorson. "For every person in my district still looking for work, there remains a lot of work to be done - but today there is a greater promise that jobs are coming back and becoming available than at any point since the recession began two years ago."

"In the last three months of the previous administration, our economy was losing an average of over 700,000 jobs a month, and this year alone we have created 573,000 new jobs. That turnaround is significant. We're creating new jobs in sectors that have been hit hard by this recession, such as manufacturing and construction. I remain committed to continuing this progress and fighting to bring additional economic development back to Illinois so our businesses have the tools they need to grow and create jobs for working families."

In her first term in office, Halvorson has proven herself a leader in bringing economic development to Illinois, and empowering small businesses so they can grow and create jobs. Working with state and local partners, Halvorson worked to finalize a deal for a new Joliet intermodal facility that will bring 15,000 jobs to our district, and has helped to save local car dealerships, preserving dozens of local jobs. A member of the House Small Business Committee, Halvorson is fighting to provide local small businesses the resources they need to grow and continue to create jobs for Illinois families, and recently passed a small business tax incentive into law to help small businesses make capital investments to grow and create jobs.

Demonstrating the swing in employment from November 2008 until now, the graph below shows the progress we have made in putting our economy back on track.

AMERICA IS ON A PATH TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM JOB LOSSES TO JOB GAINS



SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, 5/7/2010